# HAUNTED BELOGRADCHIK FORTRESS IN BULGARIA

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I received an email from Karen Jean Caruso-Walker. Karen is a world traveler and had been on a cruise to the Caribbean, visiting many islands. She has also been to the Middle East and South Korea. Her fondest memory is visiting the Belogradchik Fortress in Bulgaria two years ago.

Karen was with a tour group at the fortress when she decided to wonder off on her own to do some exploring. As she was looking around alone, she spotted three men on horses. One of the horses was pure white, while the other two horses were brown.

The men were dressed in a colorful type of uniform that consisted of the colors red, white, and gold. It appeared that one of the men was wearing a gold plate on his chest. All three men wore red turbans on their heads. Karen could also see that one of the men was brandishing a long sword with a very detailed handle.

She watched the men as they prodded along on horseback. One of the men seemed to look at Karen and then faced the direction he was going. But as she watched the men, they just faded away. It was then that Karen realized what she had seen were ghosts.

Karen rejoined her tour group and learned that at some point of time in history, the Ottoman Empire conquered Bulgaria. What she may have seen that day were Ottoman soldiers on horseback. Karen decided not to mention what she had seen to her tour group, because it seemed too incredible of a story. But she wanted to relay the story to someone.

I thanked Karen on her correspondence and this is what I found on the Belogradchik Fortress.

**The History of Belogradchik Fortress**

The fortress was built during the time Bulgaria was part of the Roman Empire. The builders determined that the natural rock formations would serve as added protection. The rocks were 230 feet high, and the builders only needed to place fortified walls on the northwest and southeast sides.

The fortress was used mainly for surveillance. But it was also used as defense if necessary.

In the 14th century, Bulgarian tsar Ivan Stratsimir extended the fortress. He set up a goal to build fortified garrisons in front of the existing rock formations.

**A world traveler spots ghostly Ottoman soldiers on horseback during a tour of the Belogradchik Fortress in Bulgaria.**

During Stratsimir's rule, the fortress became one of the best strongholds in the region. It was the second best stronghold, the first being the capital fortress of Vidin, Baba Vida.

Belogradchik Fortress was captured by the Ottomans in 1396. It was last used in warfare during the Serbo-Bulgarian War of 1885.

**Belogradchik Fortress was used mainly for surveillance.**

### Other Places in Bulgaria That Are Haunted

Paramun Village

This village is 70 kilometers west of the Bulgarian capital of Sofia. The village is practically abandoned. You see old houses with cracked walls, peeling paint, and shattered windows. The population is less than 50 people.

Villagers claim that they see their dead relatives and friends roaming around the village during twilight hours.

Eastern Orthodox Rila Monastery

This monastery was founded in the 10th century. Ghostly monks have been seen roaming the grounds.

Old Nessebar

Open shops, cobblestone roads ... the old town walls and monuments from the Roman and Byzantine era can still be seen. Old Nessebar has been around for 9,000 years. An old hunchback lady carrying a basket of flowers is seen walking along the cobblestone road. When one of her flowers falls to the ground, she goes to pick it up and then vanishes. She has the nickname Old Nessebar Hag.

Tsarevets Fortress

This was the home of medieval tsars. Some tourists say that they can sometimes hear a wailing noise that sounds human. Other tourists have claimed they heard a disembodied woman screaming.

Thracian Tomb of Sveshtari

This tomb has been around since the 3rd Century BC. It is rumored that it was built for a royal couple from Thracian Tribe of the Getae. A few tourists have said that they were touched or that their hair was stroked by an unseen entity or entities.

Alexander Nevsky Cathedral

This cathedral was built around 1882 to 1912 to honor the 200,000 Russian soldiers that died defending Bulgaria during the Russo-Turkish War. The Russian soldiers were fighting for Bulgaria's freedom.

A tourist named Nikolay Georgier claims that while visiting this Cathedral he came upon a huge blinding light in the shape of an angel. The angel he saw was 15 feet tall and had what appeared to be wings. The angel appeared to him for about three minutes and then quickly flew into the sky. The angel went from a human shape into a beam of light. ◆